The Haliburton County
ECHO

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HE takes a first swing at inking budget

JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Highlands East had to carefully balance departmental desires with actual needs to ink the first draft and this year's budget.

Highlands East property owners have an overall increase from the 2023 budget of $569,154. This equates to a 6.83 per cent municipal tax rate increase in the 2024 budget.

Ratepayers will kick in $35.91 more over last year for every $100,000 of assessed value on a property.

In 2024, the tax levy for every $100,000 of assessed property value is $561.45. In 2023, property owners forked over $525.54 for every $100,000.

Brittany McCaw, the township's CAO and treasurer, said the increase is due to the rising inflation rates.

"The cost of doing business is seeming to increase," she said.

Prices of building materials, roadwork materials, insurance, and other implements used to maintain a municipality have risen.

Township department heads laid out their priorities for 2024 to be included in this year's municipal operating and capital budget.

"This was not an easy budget to prepare," McCaw said. "Our departments really needed to take a hard look at what's a want, what's a need, and the priorities for the municipality."

Another driver for the tax levy increase is capital projects and contributions to reserve funds to ensure they align with the municipal asset management plan, she said.

"My fear is that, if we don't start anticipating and looking at these increases now, unfortunately it could just be compounding the matter and then we could be looking at something much larger down the road," McCaw said.

"Which is something that I would never wish for the ratepayers or members of council to be faced with."

The township has experienced a $24,600 decrease in the provincial Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund contribution.

McCaw said her department has taken a wait-and-see approach to what will go into municipal coffers from the municipal accommodation tax (MAT) that will be part of the regulations to govern short-term rentals (STR). It's uncertain what amount of revenue will be generated by the new bylaw.

"Because of this, we're not budgeting any revenues for (2024)," McCaw said. "We'll see what we get this year once the program is fully up and going. Then we can re-look at this for next year to see what we can look at budgeting on the revenue side."

Deputy Mayor Cecil Ryall said Haliburton County and the four lower-tier municipalities will have a third-party company take care of the administration of the STR program and the MAT.

"Is that going to be something that will be taken care of or paid for by the county or is it something we're going to end up getting a share of?" Ryall said.

"The costs will be borne solely by the municipality," McCaw said.

"Is that accounted for in our budget?" Ryall said.

"It's later on in our bylaw section," McCaw said.

The township's insurance has seen an increase of 12 per cent over last year's cost. Councillor Angela Lewis asked if it's possible for the municipality to find a company that offers better rates.

"It seems really high for the insurance," she said.

"We did go out to market a couple of

see RESIDENTIAL page 2

Razzle dazzle
The Merry Marching Band performs as Febuary's Razzamataz feature on Sunday, Feb. 11. See more photos on page 3. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*

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Student cap will be detrimental to Haliburton, says college boss

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The federal government's cap on international post-secondary students will prove to be detrimental to the region Fleming College serves.

Maureen Adamson, the college's president, said in a statement that the recent announcement of a limit on international student enrollment has created a great deal of uncertainty for the Fleming community, students, staff, faculty, businesses, and the broader community.

She said the international students currently enrolled at all Fleming campuses, including Fleming College Toronto, are not affected by Ottawa's decision. But it's a different story for the international students who have applied for the spring and fall sessions this year.

"This announcement has an immense adverse human and economic impact for our region," she said. "It is important to recognize the relationship between international students and our local economies.

"The implementation of international student caps poses a threat not only to the educational experiences of all of our students but also to the vitality of our regional economy."

That economic impact will be in a 50 per cent reduction of international student enrollment, and that will prove to be a staggering loss to Haliburton, Lindsay, and Peterborough.

"The human impact is just as startling," she said.

While Fleming prepares people to work in a variety of services, Adamson said the impacts will be most acutely felt for people involved in early childhood education, personal support workers, and practical nursing.

"People who look after our loved ones," she said.

International students that come to Ontario are essential to bringing in top talent for key sectors of the workforce across the province.

"They usually come with a diploma or degree and are ready to move quickly into the labour market," she said. "Our college graduates contribute to help close some of the largest labour market gaps in Ontario's key sectors – health care and social assistance, accommodation and food services, automotive, mining, trades and construction, advanced manufacturing, and others.

"We cannot adequately emphasize the gravity of this rash decision on students, our college, community, and local businesses and partnerships," Adamson said.

Library appoints new CEO/Chief librarian

Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) is thrilled to announce the appointment of Andrea Brown as its new chief executive officer and chief librarian. Andrea brings a wealth of knowledge to her new role, having previously served as deputy CEO/Public Services manager at HCPL.

Originally from Stoney Creek, Ontario, Andrea graduated from Trent University and earned her Master of Library & Information Studies (MLIS) at the University of British Columbia. Prior to joining HCPL, Andrea honed her skills and expertise at the Vancouver Public Library (VPL), where she held various roles including branch head at several VPL locations. Notably, during her tenure as VPL's Early Years assistant manager, Andrea coordinated the creation of a provincially funded $50,000+ Reading Tree early literacy book project, which received accolades including a City of Vancouver Staff Innovation Award.

With 18 years of experience in public libraries, including 10 years in supervisory roles, Andrea brings a deep understanding of library operations and a passion for public service. She embraces all that Haliburton County has to offer and looks forward to serving her community with enthusiasm.

"Andrea Brown's appointment as CEO/Chief Librarian is effective immediately. The HCPL Board and staff are excited to welcome Andrea into her new role and look

forward to the continued success and growth of Haliburton County Public Library under her leadership" said David O'Brien, HCPL board chair.

Submitted

WANTED by Ontario Provincial Police
Michael GUNN
• 28 years old
• 6'1" (185 cm), thin build
• Short brown hair, light-brown partial beard
• Blue eyes
• Tattoo of the Canadian flag with a cross on the right forearm
• Tattoo of a female on the left forearm
If you have information regarding the whereabouts of Michael GUNN, please do not approach and contact police immediately at 1-888-310-1122.

OPP respond to disturbance in Minden

A warrant for arrest has been issued for 28-year-old Michael GUNN of Minden, for robbery using firearm, aggravated assault, and possession of weapon for dangerous purpose in connection with an ongoing investigation in the Township of Minden Hills.

On February 9, 2024, shortly after 4:30 a.m., the Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to an assault and residential robbery with a weapon on Parkside Street in Minden. The victim was transported to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

GUNN is believed to possess a weapon and is considered a potential threat to public safety. If seen, call 9-1-1 and do not approach.

He is described as 6'1" (185 cm) with a thin build, short brown hair, light-brown partial beard, and blue eyes. He has a tattoo of the Canadian flag with a cross on the right forearm, and a tattoo of a female on the left forearm.

The investigation is ongoing by the Haliburton Highlands OPP Crime Unit.

Anyone with any information regarding this incident or the whereabout of Michael GUNN is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, please contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or ontariocrimestoppers.ca, where you may be eligible to receive a cash reward of up to $2,000.

Submitted

Residential ratepayers make up 90 per cent of HE

from page 1

years ago," McCaw said. "There are only a very small amount of companies that actually provide this type of insurance for municipalities."

The insurance carrier projected a 17 per cent increase for Highlands East last year. But McCaw said that didn't happen.

"We didn't pay 17.14 (per cent more)," she said. "It came in lower than that. It's just harder for them to project what's going to be happening seven, eight months down the road."

The township's contribution to the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority will rise about seven per cent this year over last year's levy amount. That's for $75,780 from the town's purse to the authority.

"This needs to be confirmed and passed by the CVCA board," McCaw said.

Ryall asked if the conservation authority gave any reason why the contribution has increased.

McCaw said there's additional environmental monitoring programming the authority will offer this year. And another contributor to the increase is the rising cost of living.

"As the budget is prepared today, that is the overall picture as presented," McCaw said.

Ryall said the township is about 90 per cent residential. There simply aren't very many industrial rate payers.

Lewis said the cost of everything has doubled and tripled recently, no matter what you're looking at.

McCaw said the tax rate increase was about 15 per cent when the budget process began. Then department heads took another harder look at the municipality's needs and lowered the increase.

"We do have a couple of big capital projects which are driving some of those expenditures," she said.

"As much as I don't like a big increase, I think you've done a great job," Ryall said.

Merry music

Razzamataz showcased the Merry Marching Band on Sunday, Feb. 11. The band also hosted a workshop the day before at Haliburton School of Art + Design for an introduction to their instruments. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*

Hill bids farewell to Haliburton Highlands Museum

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

Steve Hill has preserved Haliburton County's history for nearly 40 years, but he's turning the last page of the career chapter of his life.

As of Saturday, Jan. 27, the beloved curator retired from Haliburton Highlands Museum after 39 years.

Going beyond tending to hundreds of artifacts, he's carefully taken care of our history through gaining profound knowledge of the people, places, and things that make up Haliburton County.

He's given back to generations by sharing what he knows with all visitors who have stepped foot on the museum grounds.

His respect and appreciation for those in the community runs deep.

"He's such an exemplary human being. I hope Haliburton knows what a treasure we have had in him and how lucky we've all been that he was willing to dedicate so much of his life to that museum, and how much we're all going to be a bit bereft without him," said Martha Perkins, former editor of the *Echo* who worked closely with Hill on many projects.

While standing in the cold air with Hill on one of his last working days, he looked back at the museum, and with a visible breath said, "My life's work."

"Make yourself at home, folks," he greets some museum guests as we walked up the stairs.

He'd been staying late every night during his last week of work to organize his office and files.

We sat down at the tables in the centre of the upstairs of the museum.

We were surrounded by displays of hundreds of artifacts, most of which Hill built and installed himself.

"I look at every town I've ever worked, every museum I've had connections with, and the museums are usually all about the rich and famous," He said. "At this one, I always wanted to honour the 'regular' people that worked hard everyday to make the town what it is.

"We learn from the past, we learn from our mistakes. Those are cliches, but they're true."

He griped his coffee mug as he told me about his own childhood.

Hill's love for the people of days long ago spans back to his first memories.

"When I was a kid in school learning about the pioneers, I reconized that they suffered in a lot of ways," he said. "I also lived on a street with no other kids, so I would hang around the older people and listen to their stories."

One of the most remarkable people in his life was his grandfather, a veteran of the First World War.

"I had so much respect for him. None of us knew the horrors he went through to give us the lives we have today."

His career began at a museum in his hometown of Barrie at age 16.

Retired Haliburton Highlands Museum curator Steve Hill stands in front of his "life's work." /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Hill moved to Haliburton in 1984 after completing post-secondary education in museum curation.

"I was hired by Ross Carver for the role of assistant curator at the Haliburton Highlands Museum. I came in November of '84 and never left," he said.

When Carver retired in 1987, Hill became full curator and Tom Ballantyne became full director.

Hill smiled after taking a sip of black coffee from his mug as he recounted working alongside Ballantyne.

"Tom used to say, 'I look after the big picture, you look after the details.' He was almost like a big brother to me," Hill said.

His selfless spirit shone through as he told the story about one of his favourite memories.

"If he was ever in the middle of a big project, I knew he was busy with constant interruptions. I'd help him finish the job whenever I could." Hill said. "One of the last projects Tom wanted to do before he retired was gut the old Reid House basement after a leak."

On a day when Ballantyne was particularly overwhelmed by the project, Hill took the dirty work into his own hands.

"I stayed out there until 2 a.m. to finish so Tom wouldn't have to worry about it anymore. It meant so much to him," He said.

Hill also wrote a history on the *Haliburton Echo*, which he told me about as he worked the old press that used to be used to print the paper.

"This is in my top three favourite artifacts," he said.

He also played a big part in the making of *Haliburton, a History in Pictures*.

We have Hill to thank for almost all of our Pics of the Past.

His dedication and hard work all stem from the desire to teach new generations what the ones of the past had gone through.

"When you did his tours, you could imagine him coming straight from the past. He embodied the past and what was good about it. He embodied the spirit of the people and how hardworking they were," Perkins said.

"We need to preserve history so that we have a yard stick to measure by so we don't repeat the bad things. I honestly feel that people of the past worked hard so that we can have the lives we do now," Hill explained.

He said, "I'm the old generation now. Museums have changed so much."

That doesn't mean he won't still dedicate his energy to what he loves most.

He's on the board for the local Newspaper Digitization Project, and says he intends to stay in Haliburton.

He said the people of the community have always had a strong sense of family, spirit, and work ethic. Not much has changed in those ways.

"It's a nice community with good people that welcomed me with open arms from the very beginning."

Hill shared his appreciation for Haliburton residents and visitors.

"Thank you all for having a Museum and allowing me the opportunity to endeavour to preserve and display your heritage. By and large, you are good, honest, hard-working people & deserve to be remembered," he said. Thank you for everything."

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HHHS is seeking strategic, experienced, engaged, and talented members of our community to join us in pursuit of this vision by participating as a voluntary member of our Board of Directors or as a Community Representative on one of the Board's Standing Committees.

At a minimum, board members should expect to devote approximately 10 hours of time per month to HHHS business, including attendance at monthly board and committee meetings both in-person and virtually.

Annual board recruitment is based on vacancies and the requirements identified through a Board Skills Matrix that ensures a complementary balance of knowledge, skills and experience. **This year we are seeking individuals with clinical background, legal, and patient and healthcare advocacy backgrounds.**

How to be Considered
Interested applicants are requested to complete an application form and submit it along with a covering letter and resume via email quoting "HHHS Board Recruitment" in the subject line to mhenry@hhhs.ca by **March 1, 2024**. All applications will be acknowledged and held in confidence.

Application forms and additional board information can be found at: www.hhhs.ca/about/board

Inquiries can be directed to:

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Shhhhh: Granicus gets contract for STR monitoring, says Dysart

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton County had just one response for its request for proposals to monitor and ensure compliance by short-term rental property owners to proposed new rules for those accommodations.

But the company that did respond to the RFP is well versed in the field.

"It (the proposal) was duly vetted by the evaluation team," said Stephen Stone, the county's planning director.

That team was comprised of county staff and staff from each of the lower tier municipalities who will hitch their wagons to the proposed short-term rental (STR) bylaw and its accompanying municipal accommodation tax (MAT).

"We had a good opportunity to look at the proposal in detail," he said.

That single proposal was ultimately accepted.

Stone didn't name the company in his report to county council. It isn't a secret. The Township of Dysart formally accepted their proposal during its regular council meeting Jan. 23, the day before the upper tier council heard from Stone.

Granicus Canada Holdings will ensure short-term rental property owners comply with rules that will regulate the industry in the county.

Warden Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, said she was disappointed that Granicus wasn't name in Stone's report, despite it being widely known among proponents of STRs.

"I'm out of my league with regards to procurement policies, but I believe that would be a breach of the process that we would go and divulge any information at this time," Stone said. "I'll leave it at that."

"If you've done even a tertiary glance of enforcement on short-term rentals within the province of Ontario, the proponent's name comes up quite regularly," said Scott Ovell, the county's economic development and tourism director. "That would be my belief that people are just making that assumption that's the company that was selected."

Again, Dysart's council named the company the day before.

Over the life of the three-year contract, Dysart will pay $131,065. Highlands East, Algonquin Highlands, and Minden Hills will each pay $60,854.

"They do come with a fair bit of experience," Stone said.

Indeed.

Dysart's council meeting agenda had a report that explained Granicus is the outfit that provides STR services to some nearby communities.

The company handles STR services for more than 500 cities and counties across North America including some of Haliburton's neighbours such as Huntsville, Lake of Bays, Ramara, Orillia, Georgian Bay, Collingwood, Tiny, and Penetanguishen.

"So that was good to see," Stone said.

Granicus will be responsible for surveillance monitoring of STR operators on vacation host websites.

They will handle registration and compliance monitoring. They will notify non-compliant STR operators of infractions and the resulting consequences and communicate with municipal staff about non-compliant STR operators.

Granicus will also be responsible for collecting the much-contested municipal accommodation tax (MAT). And they will follow up with hosts who are not remitting those delinquent hosts.

The contract also entails that a phone line and online portal be established for customer service questions.

Closures across the board

The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association has closed all trails due to warm temperatures and rain over the weekend. Follow HCSA on Facebook or visit hcsa.ca for updates on trail availability. /Submitted by HCSA

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A beaver den air vent covered in frost. /Photo by Tammy Nash

Editorial

Love month

vivian collings

THE HARDEST times of the year for many are January and February.

Financially, mentally, and physically.

It's a toss up between the two as being the most depressing months of the year for Ontarians.

This month's been especially hard on stakeholders up here.

"It's dead," is the resounding comment I've heard from those who run businesses in town.

Snowmobile trail closures and dwindling snow mean less visitors. Less people are here to spend their money. Locals buy what they need and not much more following December sprees.

It feels like a time to hunker down and wait out the storm.

But I am nothing if not an eternal optimist.

Obviously we can't ignore the struggles we're facing, but sometimes the only way through is to focus on the light shining through.

So now, for me, February isn't cold, sad month, it's love month.

Like the recent sunshine passing through the branches of frosty trees, there are plenty of bright lights in February.

The most obvious is the 14th.

I know, it's been dubbed a Hallmark holiday full of candies, chocolates, pink; consumerism.

It didn't start that way, though.

Most historians think the day comes from one of three Catholic saints.

One had performed marriages in secret after Emperor Claudius II of Ancient Rome outlawed soldiers from having a wife.

Another had helped wrongfully-accused people escape from prison.

I can't find much about the third, but all three were killed.

And let's just go with him being gallant and noble, too.

Minus the beheadings, those are some pretty admirable stories, whether they happened or not.

Because of them, we get to dedicate a day to the people we love.

If you check out the My Haliburton Highlands calendar on their website, you'll find plenty of events on the 14th to spend with family, friends, or your partner.

Then there's Family Day.

The stat was created in Alberta first to regonize the hardworking pioneer families before being adopted by the rest of the country.

I really can't think of a better way to spend a Monday, honestly.

Everyone loves a day off.

Minden Hills Cultural Centre will have an open house on Feb. 19 featuring a new art exhibit by students at Archie Stouffer, food from Minden Rotary, crafts, and a book sale.

Over in Highlands East, Gooderham is also having a Family Fun Day at the Robert McCausland Community Centre with games, crafts, bingo, and hot dogs.

The Dorset Snowball is also on Saturday, and Poquito Loco has an open mic event on Sunday.

Some other fun activities could be visiting the local galleries for their February exhibitions, checking out some of the walking trails on nature reserves, going public skating, going out for dinner, or staying in with games or books.

I'm definitely learning to be a fan of love month.

It's short and sweet, and if all else fails, spring is in 35 sleeps.

Our road

Falling

Down

sharon lynch

JIM HAD just finished his coffee when he heard it. A rumble followed by silence. He knew immediately what had happened. His woodpile had fallen over. It felt like a losing battle. No matter how carefully Jim laid the pieces of wood one on top the other, they never stayed put for the whole season. Heck sometimes they didn't even stay put for a day.

One March, as he stood smugly surveying the freshly stacked maple, birch and beech for next winter's supply, he was sickened to watch it all tumble down into a tangled mess. It felt like an insult to his sore back.

That was the year he decided to build a woodshed. Surely, Jim thought, building a sturdy structure would make a difference. A nice solid base, he reasoned, should be more stable. Wrong. This only made his frustration greater.

Just the week before, he happened to glance out the window, looking towards the shed. Something must have caught his attention though he couldn't recall what that might have been. But what he saw was not a wandering deer or the neighbour's car. It was the line of freshly stacked wood, trembling and heaving before the whole pile slid forward in slow motion. Two hours of hard labour, lifting and hauling, pushing the heavy wheelbarrow over frozen ruts, bending and reaching and all for nothing.

The next day he and Monika were sitting in her kitchen, enjoying a piece of her famous apple pie as Jim told her what had happened. Monika didn't seem to have the same problem with her firewood and Jim was at a loss to understand why. Especially since she seemed very casual about piling it. Unlike Jim who carefully placed each piece in a nice neat line, Monika almost threw the pieces on top of each other. She was impatient and wanted to finish the job as quickly as possible. And for the most part, her wood did not fall down. No justice, Jim thought resentfully.

To his surprise, she now offered to help him re-pile it, as long as he didn't tell her how to do it. At this point Jim would have agreed to sew his mouth shut if needed to keep his neighbour happy. He promised to keep quiet and thanked her for the offer, which of course he took her up on.

They finished their pie and then headed over to his place, a short walk on a mild afternoon. Much of the snow had gone and the sun shone optimistically. With two people working, it shouldn't take too long to get the job done, Jim noted. Monika agreed, saying she hoped he might be available to help her when her load was delivered.

Jim hadn't considered this. But how could he refuse? It was called reciprocity and only seemed fair. So the two of them went to work. Jim tried to loosen up his tendency to fuss over placement, taking a cue from Monika's more relaxed approach. After all, he thought to himself, you can't argue with success and she obviously had the knack.

Stacking firewood was a double-edged sword for Jim. When finished, he liked the neatness of it and the feeling of accomplishment. But as he grew older, every winter his body protested a bit more. The slight ache in his arms and shoulders and especially his back.

Monika went at it like a house on fire, while Jim tried to keep up. He didn't want to be outdone by a woman. The two friends finished the job surprisingly fast. A curious blue jay watched for awhile, cocking its head at their efforts. Sunshine sparkled on the icicles hanging from the shed roof as Jim silently prayed this time the pile would stay put.

When they were done, Monika suggested they finish the apple pie at her place. Nothing like a piece of pie to lift your spirits, she noted. Especially if you've been working hard to keep from being outdone by a mere woman, she continued. Jim looked at her in surprise. She smiled, noting that Jim tended to talk to himself when he worked.

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points of view

Grand romantic gestures

steve galea

Loon Tales

AS I write this, Valentine's Day is rapidly approaching. This means many men my age will spend a lot of money buying things like chocolates and roses, so that they can show their appreciation to that special someone in their lives by gifting them dying flowers and a partially eaten box of chocolates.

That's fine, but I prefer grand romantic gestures. And not just because they are far less expensive. No, it is because they are much more appreciated and far less expensive.

Not to brag, but I started Valentine's Day a little earlier than I usually do. You see, in this house we typically celebrate it from February 15 through to mid-March, after we realize that I forgot it again.

Anyhow, this year I made no such mistake. I began to show my undying love and affection for Jenn on Saturday afternoon right after she said, in public no less, "Hold my purse."

Of course, I'm a modern man, so this is not the first time I've done this. What made this occasion different though is that this time I didn't sprint off so that it appeared as if I was snatching it – which is more socially acceptable to a lot of men my age.

No, I stood there, holding it, as requested – like a hero.

Ok, I will concede that I held it in the way men my age tend to hold purses – basically, like we are holding onto a live grenade with the pin pulled out. Which is not actually true, because when I was a young lad, I completed infantry basic training and threw a live grenade – and that experience felt a lot less uncomfortable.

I get that this makes me sound like a dinosaur.

Nothing could be further from the truth though. You see I also know that, logically speaking, a purse is just an inanimate object that does not define the person holding it with their little T-rex arms.

The thing is, men my age also do not understand the concept of a purse. Which is why we invented the front facing fanny pack.

This lack of familiarity and understanding of the purse is what causes discomfort. I can only speak for myself, but I feel that a purse is similar and probably related to the wardrobe described by C.S. Lewis in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.

You see, if Jenn reached into her purse and pulled out a Shetland pony and a cart, I would not at all be surprised.

That's why, as I pointed out to Jenn, this was one of those grand romantic gestures that romance novels are built upon – perhaps even on par with a private tour of a really good worm farm.

Jenn, in fact, agreed with the last part too.

Even so, she uttered, "I don't understand why you are making a big deal of this."

"I'm not making a big deal out of this," I replied.

Then, as a man passed by, I said, "It's OK, I just snatched it…"

Right about then, Jenn finally finished tying her boot laces and took back her purse.

I smiled and said, "Happy Valentine's Day."

Frankly, she didn't seem overly impressed by the sentiment. But that's OK too.

There's always the roses and chocolate option.

It's too bad Valentine's Day is in February though. The really good worm farms are not open till late spring.

pic *of the* past

THIS CLUSTER of three buildings was on the south side of Highland Street in the vicinity of the present Foodland driveway. It is believed the centre building was Joe Paull's butcher shop with his house on the left; the building to the right is a boot and shoe maker's shop. At the extreme left is the wall of Anderson's store. This photo can be found in Haliburton: A History in Pictures by the Haliburton Highlands Museum

Haliburton OPP recover firearm

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) executed an arrest warrant that resulted in the seizure of a firearm in Minden Hills.

During the evening of Feb. 7, 2024, the Haliburton Highlands OPP crime unit with the assistance from members of the Haliburton Highlands OPP Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), Tactics and Rescue Unit (TRU) and Emergency Response Team (ERT), executed an arrest warrant for a wanted person at a residence in Minden Hills. The individual was located and arrested without incident and a firearm was seized.

The arrested person was charged with:

- Assault - two counts
- Choking - two counts
- Careless storage of a firearm
- Possession of a firearm without a licence

This person was held for a bail hearing.

No further details will be provided in order to protect the identity of the victim.

The investigation is ongoing. Investigators are asking that anyone with any information and have not spoken to police to contact Haliburton Highlands OPP at 705-286-1431 or the OPP Provincial Communications Centre at 1-888-310-1122.

Submitted

Rails End annual Member's exhibit

Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre announces the highly anticipated opening of its Annual Member's Salon Exhibition "DREAM". This popular group show showcases local artists and their imaginative responses to this year's theme ~ "dream".

The opening was on Saturday, Feb. 10, and the exhibition will run until April 13.

"DREAM" is bound to be a stimulating exhibition, featuring a wide range of media and styles that reflect the artistic tapestry of our community. At the Opening Reception attendees will have the unique opportunity to engage with the artists, gaining insights into their creative processes and inspirations.

One of the exciting features of this annual exhibition is the People's Choice Award for 2024. Visitors to the gallery are encouraged to cast a vote for their favorite artwork. This interactive element adds an extra layer of excitement to the cultural experience for all ages, allowing attendees to actively participate in recognizing outstanding artistic achievements within the community.

Rails End Gallery is dedicated to bringing the creative arts to life in Haliburton. The gallery invites everyone to join in the celebration of creativity, community, and the arts on February 10 through April 13.

Opening Reception Details:

- What: Annual Member's Salon Exhibition "DREAM" Opening Reception
- Where: Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre, 23 York Street, Haliburton
- When: Saturday, February 10, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- Admission: Free and open to the public

About Rails End Gallery: Rails End Gallery is a cultural hub dedicated to bringing the creative arts to life in Haliburton. As a community space, the gallery is committed to fostering creativity, supporting artists, and engaging the public in meaningful artistic experiences.

The exhibition is open to the public Wednesday to Friday 10 to 5 pm and Saturdays 10- 4 pm.

Submitted

Love is all around

Above, Brian Nash and Barb Bolin stop for a photo at Cupid's Carnival at Abbey Gardens on Saturday, Feb. 10. The day featured an indoor market, games, refreshments, and visits with ponies.
Top right, Kenzie Merritt displays her creations at the market portion of the Valentine's Day event.
Bottom right, Natalia Brown and Angela Kalich share a laugh at Brown's booth, Naebr Design. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Electronics Recycling

Dysart ratepayers can drop off electronics for recycling at Haliburton, Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay, and West Guilford Landfills during regular operating hours.

Computers & Laptops

Printers

Video gaming devices

Phones

Televisions & Monitors

Radios, Stereos including after-market vehicle stereos

Headphones

Cameras including security cameras

Success!
In 2023, Dysart collected 37.09 metric tonnes (81,769 lbs) of electronics for recycling!

Video Recorders

Peripherals & Cables including charging equipment

Hard drives and other parts of technology sold separately

Delete your data
It is your responsibility to ensure personal data is permanently removed from all electronics such as computers, laptops, tablets, phones, cell phones, etc. The Municipality of Dysart et al and its electronics recycler cannot accept liability for any data that remains on electronics left at the site.

No scavenging
The Municipality receives revenue from the sale of the electronics it collects for recycling. When you scavenge electronics, it increases taxes for everyone.

Not accepted with Electronics Recycling
Microwaves, Lamps, Kettles, Coffee Makers, Vacuums, Power Tools

Municipality of Dysart et al

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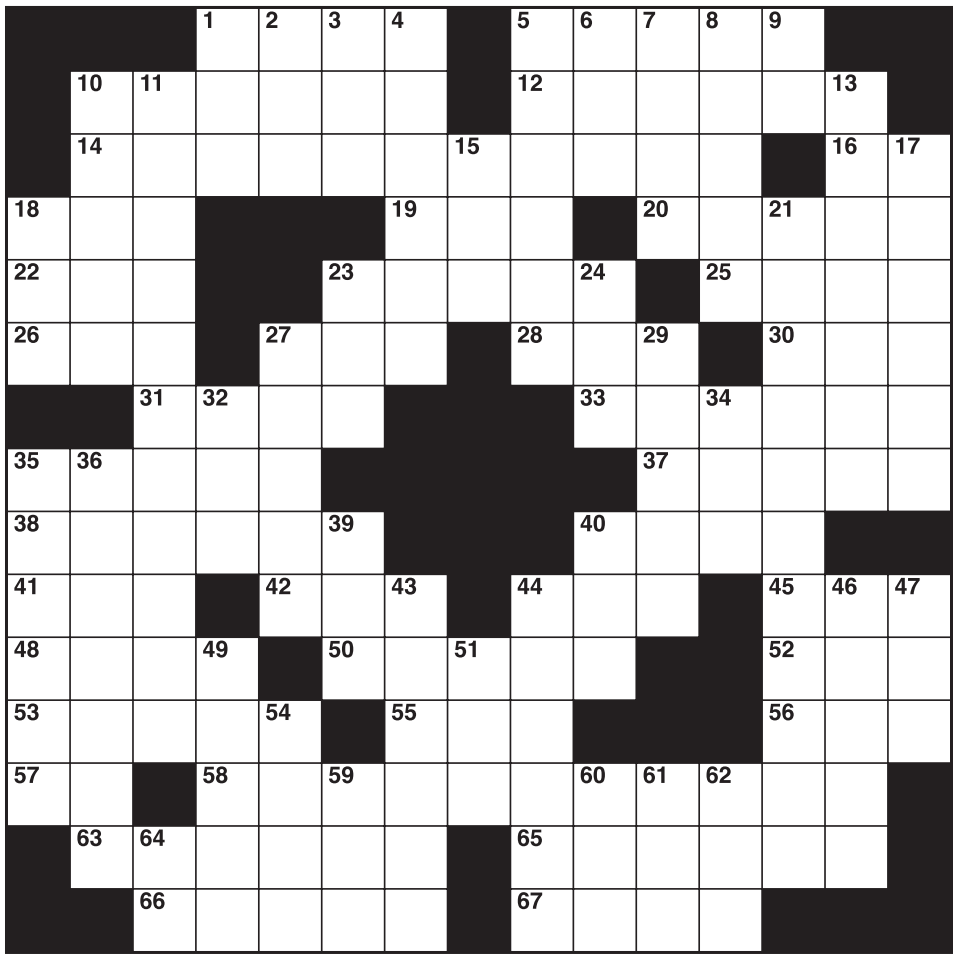

CLUES ACROSS
1. Gene type
5. Persian male given name
10. Type of protection
12. Cloud
14. One who returns to life
16. Gym class
18. General's assistant (abbr.)
19. Baby's dining accessory
20. Enchantress
22. Prefix denoting "in a"
23. Spiritual leader
25. Cavities
26. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
27. Foot (Latin)
28. Sweet potato
30. Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
31. Land
33. More inquisitive
35. Dog breed: __ Apso
37. Stood up
38. Direct and uninhibited
40. Authorless
41. Blocking type of drug (abbr.)
42. Retrospective analysis (abbr.)
44. Root mean square (abbr.)
45. Macaws
48. Actress Remini
50. Polynesian wrapped skirt
52. City of Angels hoops team (abbr.)
53. Fitzgerald and Baker are two
55. Bowling alley must-have
56. A way to cool down
57. Ethnic group in Asia
58. A way to alter
63. Set of five
65. Removes from the record
66. Dummies
67. Set period in office

CLUES DOWN
1. DC Comics superhero
2. Brew
3. Play
4. Single-celled animals
5. Rough to the touch
6. Small island (British)
7. Often noted alongside cons
8. Preparation of rootstock
9. Atomic #44
10. Egyptian unit of capacity
11. About secretary
13. Particular groups
15. Poke fun at
17. Make certain that something occurs
18. Financial term
21. Justify
23. Arbiter
24. 007's creato
27. Czech name for Prague
29. Groans
32. American time
34. No seats available
35. __ Stahl, journalist
36. Cleft lip
39. Talk incessantly
40. Expresses atomic and molecular weights (abbr.)
43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
44. Curdled milk
46. Running competitions
47. A team's best pitcher
49. Carthaginian explorer
51. World-renowned city
54. Most common Japanese surname
59. The bill in a restaurant
60. They __
61. City of Angels football team (abbr.)
62. Distinctive practice
64. One quintillion bytes

Answers on page 12

Trust is the secret to 65 years of marriage

Lawrence and Maria Van Lieshout embrace with big smiles, excited for their 66th anniversary this April. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

THOMAS SMITH
Staff Reporter

"We were neighbours," says Maria Van Lieshout, with a smile.

"Actually it was very simple, my Dad and her dad were the best of friends," said Lawrence Van Lieshout. "So we knew the family, of course they knew us because we were only a quarter kilometre away or half a kilometre away."

"Not even that," said Maria.

"When I was born, her mother took me for getting baptized because we were Catholic," explained Lawrence. "The reverse happened when Maria was born, my mother took her."

"We grew up on a farm, and I married a farm girl." said Lawrence, with a smile.

Lawrence and Maria's love story started as neighbours growing up in their hometown within North Brabant in the Netherlands.

"We were born in 1934. We were six years old when the war started," said Lawrence. "The big families, like there was eight in her family, 11 in our family, there was 14 in our neighbour's family. So to go through the war when things are rationed and under the German regime, that was very difficult to the parents. Very difficult."

"We started dating, I think when we were 20, and we got married when we were 23," explained Lawrence, "dating is different than today. I was lucky if I saw her on the weekend maybe."

Lawrence and Maria were lucky enough to get married twice, within the same year.

"We got married twice. In Holland, for the Catholic church, that doesn't count," explained Maria. "Well it counts, because you sign documents there, except we were trying to immigrate after the war."

With both Lawrence and Maria having relatives already in Canada, they decided to immigrate to Canada as a newlywed couple. With a ship leaving for Halifax on April 18, Lawrence and Maria had to have all documents in place beforehand.

"So we married actually…" trailed off Lawrence.

"February 20," answered Maria.

"We went to the city hall, signed the documents and went home and did our own thing again," explained Lawrence. "Our official wedding was with the Church and the celebrations."

"And that was the 12th of April," finishes Maria.

On April 18th, 1957, Lawrence and Maria Van Lieshout departed the Netherlands in search of greater economic opportunities in Canada. After boarding the Rÿdeme, the newlywed couple landed at Pier 21 in Halifax after eight days of sailing. Immediately, the pair boarded a ship to Hoboken, New York to visit Lawrence's brother.

After their visit, they boarded a train from New York to come back to Cornwall.

"It was so strange, my brother dropped us off in Baltimore. We couldn't speak a word of [English]. So we had a tag hanging on us," explained Lawrence, "saying I am Lawrence Destination: Cornwall. They picked us up like UPS."

see 'ALL page 11

‘All you need are trust and support,’ say the Van Lieshouts

from page 10

Despite the language barrier, the two luckily ended up on the train to Cornwall. Lawrence and Maria moved to Canada with sponsorship from his brother.

Lawrence said that Canada wanted young men after losing so many soldiers in the war, similar to the importance of migrant workers today.

Going back to their roots, Lawrence and Maria’s first house in Canada was in Eamer’s Corners near Cornwall. He worked on the farm making $100 per month, but had their pay deducted by the landlord with things such as utilities. Their first house did not even have an indoor toilet.

“We were very blessed. I think we did the right thing. I know it was tough, coming through the war. My brothers, my sisters had come to Canada. it’s nice, if you want to farm you could start a farm there,” she said.

After moving to Martintown, their first son was born.

“When Wilfred was born, I didn’t speak a word of English,” Maria said. “Because we didn’t have a T.V. or a radio, we had nothing, so where could I learn from?”

In retaliation to Lawrence missing work for the birth of Wilfred, the landlord deducted $5 from their paycheque. The pair decided to leave after that.

“We then moved to Lancaster. We found an old crappy house. Worked seven days a week, you never had time off and you would get always the awful jobs, you know,” Lawrence said with a laugh. “Like going in the silo and cutting all the frozen stuff out the chute. Clean out the gutters and all the manure. You could work all day shoveling it.”

Lawrence and Maria can remember towns that existed around Cornwall before they were removed and flooded by the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Lawrence and Maria had to live in Canada for five years before receiving Canadian citizenship.

“The only thing we had was a bicycle, so usually, relationships would be within 10, 15 kilometres of where you’d live cause you had no way of getting there.

“My Dad said, ‘if you want to get a good marriage then you’ve got to start off with a good foundation and have as many things in common as you possibly can,’” he said.

Eventually, the Van Lieshout family lived on a farm in Pickering with their four kids, Wilfred, Henriette, Ann Marie, and Anthony.

Maria’s asthma and allergies got more severe, and their doctor suggested they move away from the farm. Somewhere with fresh air and an abundance of nature. The children’s accordion teacher let them visit his cottage. The fresh air made Maria feel better, leading the couple to want to move to Haliburton County.

While Lawrence continued to work in Ajax, he began to miss his young, growing family.

Graciously, his employer gave him a leave of absence for Lawrence to pursue a real estate license. In addition to beginning his real estate practice, Lawrence began driving school buses in Haliburton County.

Lawrence worked in real estate in the Haliburton County area for 38 years.

“I really enjoyed it,” said Lawrence. When Lawrence was around 68 years old, he sold his real estate business to his youngest son, Anthony.

“The only thing I regret, that I said to the kids,” said Lawrence, “[is] that I didn’t spend more time with you. Because for me, it was work, work, work, work, work.

“There’s gotta be a happy medium. I think it’s difficult to have both success and be with the kids.”

Their secret to such a long lasting marriage?

“Trust one another,” said Maria.

Lawrence said that it is extremely important to have something in common with your partner, be it language or religion. He says that if there are strong differences in people’s cultural backgrounds, it can quickly strain a relationship

“What is your favourite thing about Lawrence?” I asked Maria.

“Why did you ask me this question?” Maria said with a big laugh.

“I’ll tell you mine!” said Lawrence.

“You’re going say it’s because I cook all the time!” replied Maria.

“She is a beautiful, solid lady,” said Lawrence, “respectful, truly sincere, hard-working, extremely caring, did the best for the kids, supported me 100 per cent... just beautiful. I am glad you asked.”

“That I can trust him,” answered Maria with a smile. “I don’t know how to express that. I can’t put words to it.”

“We have supported each other,” said Lawrence, “And that’s what you need.”

“I am afraid that people of a younger age don’t care about one another anymore,” said Maria, “That bothers me.”

“We had a good life and a beautiful, younger life,” says Lawrence, “You had a beautiful evening, dance, and of course, there was always accordion music there. That was the way of finding your partner.”

The Van Leishouts are immensely proud of their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Lawrence and Maria Van Lieshout will be celebrating their 66th anniversary on April 12 this year.

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Valentine's Day submissions

"I was diagnosed with stage 3 ovarian cancer, on Dec 6. I've since had a nine hour debulking surgery and my first round of chemo. My fiancé Shannon has been by my side since day one, and I don't know where I'd be without her. She deserves the world and more. We're set to get married July 27 this year and right now it's something to look forward to.
Happy Valentines Day Sweetheart." /Submitted by Amanda Hesson

Greg and Kendra Nimigon on their wedding day in Cuba on Feb. 15, 2019. /Submitted

"The love of my life," says Nancy Brownsberger of husband John Petrie. /Submitted

Madeline Whilsmith and Matthew Eno are expecting second baby in May 2024 Photo was taken by local photographer Amanda Rowden at the Haliburton Highlands Museum. /Submitted

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

DESIGN, SUPPLY, AND INSTALLATION OF PLAYGROUND

The Municipality of Dysart et al is requesting proposals for the design, supply, and installation of a playground at the Harcourt Community Centre.

Proposals must be received on or before 12:00 p.m. EST on Friday, March 1, 2024.

Specifications and Tender Forms can be obtained at the Dysart
Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, ON or online at https://www.dysartetal.ca/en/municipal-government/bids-and-tenders.aspx

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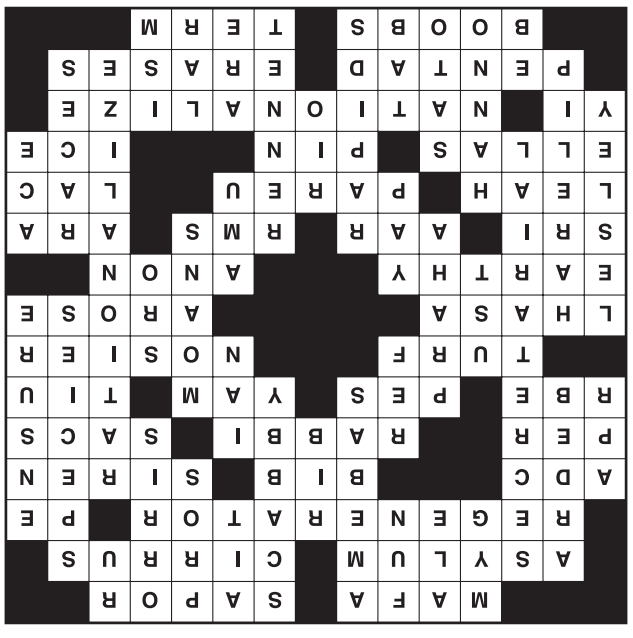

ACM makes moves

Dear Valued Members of the ACM Community,

It has been a while since we reached out and with such big things on our horizons, we couldn't think of a better time. We are thrilled to share some exciting news with all of you.

ACM Designs is embarking on a new chapter as we relocate our office to the Brewery at Abbey Gardens in Haliburton Highlands. This move marks a significant milestone in our journey, and we are excited to see where it takes us.

Our decision to move to Abbey Gardens stems from our deep commitment to community, a core value that has always been at the heart of ACM Designs. We want to express our sincere gratitude for being welcomed into the Abbey Gardens community with open arms. It warms our hearts to be part of a community that shares our values and actively contributes to the growth and development of Haliburton Highlands.

The move presents us with an opportunity to expand our business operations and focus on our bespoke offerings. The shop space we will have at Abbey Gardens will provide us with the necessary resources to participate in sustainable design and create custom and unique furniture that will become a part of the heritage in the cottages we design. Our time at 7 Dysart Ave. has been invaluable, providing us with the opportunity to grow our team. While we embark on this journey, we will maintain a smaller footprint at 7 Dysart Ave.

We want to thank our team for their hard work and dedication, our clients and partners for their trust and involvement, and Abbey Gardens for welcoming us into their community. It is because of you all that we have become the company that we are. This truly is a pivotal moment in our company's history. We look forward to our continued growth, success, and positive contributions that we will make together at our new home in Abbey Gardens.

Submitted by ACM Designs

Hello again

community news
west guilford
Eleanor Cooper
754-2278

Greetings to faithful Echo readers.

For a month I have laid low due to the fall I had on the last day of December, 2023. It injured my right arm and hand, and left me helpless there and in much pain. During that time many came to my aid. Ambulance helped first, then hospital staff. Friends, beginning with Beth Johns, then Colleen Pate assisted confidently alongside of daughter Beth and sons, George and Alan. I am forever in their debt for the care they bestowed on me. The thoughtful phone calls also aided in recovery, as did books from friends and from a favourite cousin. I was delighted to receive a visit from musical people who sang duets to me and stayed for tea, the same afternoon a couple of friends called in to assist and shared the tea. Thank you, one and all.

Transportation to church also meant much to me, as does the continuing support of St. George's Anglican Church and our present priest, the Rev. Dr. Connie Phillipson.

Huskies battle Royals

The Haliburton County Huskies took on the Markham Royals at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden on Saturday, Feb. 10. The Huskies lost to the Royals 4-2. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*

Charlie Fink, #14, scores Huskies first goal 1-1.

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NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION TO PURCHASE AN ORIGINAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROAD MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

DATE: February 27, 2024
TIME: Any person who wishes to address Council should contact the Planning Department for a delegation time.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, Municipal Office, 135 Maple Ave., Haliburton, Ontario, or virtually via Zoom.

APPLICATION:
The Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al has, by resolution, declared the following parcel of land to be surplus.

Applicant: Walker
Location: The Road Allowance described as the 20 foot lane and Part of the Road Allowance for Dean Court, on Plan of Subdivision 525, in Part Lot 19, Concession 7, in the Geographic Township of Dysart, as shown on the survey prepared by H. Curry Bishop dated August 24, 1964.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al proposes to consider and if deemed appropriate enact at its meeting as noted above, a by-law to close, stop-up and convey the portion of road allowance described above.

BEFORE PASSING the said by-law, the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al shall at its meeting to be held as noted above, hear in person or by his counsel, solicitor or agent, any person who claims that his land will be affected by the said by-law.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION is available for review from the Planning Department at the Municipal Office during regular offices hours (8:30 am. to 4:30 pm. Monday to Friday).

DATED at the Township of Dysart, this 5th day of February 2024.

Jeff Iles
Director of Planning and Land Information

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The Municipality of Dysart et al is looking for a full-time Museum assistant to join our team. This position works closely with the museum's collection to maintain and process artifacts and conduct research to investigate stories. Design and create new exhibits to showcase community's history. Assist the Director with visitors and educational programming. Varied duties season to season. The detailed job description is available on our website www.dysartetal.ca/careers

The position is 35-hours per week and the annual salary range is $43,001 to $50,305. Pension and Benefits after a 6-month probationary period.

Interested individuals are invited to email a detailed resume and cover letter to:

HR Manager
hr@dysartetal.ca
No Later Than 12:00 pm Friday February 23, 2024.

** We thank all who apply; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes. **

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Interested candidates should forward their resume with writing and photography samples to Jennifer McEathron
by **Friday, March 1, 2024.**
jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com

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640 IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORY OF MERREIT MCNEIL SR

A dear husband who passed away on February 13, 1998.
I often think of bygone days when we were together.
The family chain is broken now, but memories will live forever. To me they have not gone away, nor traveled far.
Just entered God's eternal home and left the gate ajar.
Always loved and never forgotten

Your Wife,
Mary McNeil

660 CARD OF THANKS

Thank you

to all the Community Care personnel, doctors, nurses, paramedics and hospital staff of the Haliburton Hospital who cared for **Carol Bradimore** over the past few months.

The kind and gentle care you provided Carol was incredible and was very much appreciated by her family and friends.

The warmth and compassion you showed to Carol and her family were second to none, making her last days more comfortable for everyone.

Thank you all again,
Cara, Peer, Mark, Kelly and family

660 CARD OF THANKS

Thank You

From the Family of Dorothy Wilson

The family of the late Dorothy Wilson would like to extend sincere thanks and appreciation for the many expressions of kindness, love and support since Dorothy passed away on December 27th 2023.
We are especially grateful for the care Dorothy received at the Gardens and Highland Wood.
Thanks to Dr. Gilmore for his excellent care and to the many donations to H.H.H.S. in her memory. Many thanks to the Haliburton Community Funeral Home

Sincerely,
Paul, Debbie, John, Tracey and families

650 OBITUARIES

PAUL HAROLD WILSON

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Paul Wilson, on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at age 89.

Paul Wilson of Koshlong Lake, Haliburton, beloved husband of the late Marjorie (nee Dawson). He will be sorely missed by his children Laurie (Roberto Brilli), and Dean Wilson (Mel). Loved grandfather of Sarah, Richard (Kaleigh), Matthew (Robyne), Cal, Jamie, Tyler, Alyssa, Nolan, and A.J. A private family service will be held in Haliburton in the spring. Arrangements have been entrusted to the WAGG FUNERAL HOME, "McDermott-Panabaker Chapel", 216 Queen Street in Port Perry (905-985-2171). If desired, memorial donations may be made to the Oak Ridges Hospice in Port Perry. Memories and condolences may be shared at www.waggfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of

ELLIOTT, Morris Joseph
(Retired Investment Advisor TD Wealth)

Suddenly at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre on Thursday, February 1, 2024 at the age of 68.

Beloved husband of Anne (nee Tallman) for 44 years. Loving father of Lauren Elliott and her husband Ned Struthers, Alexandra Elliott and her husband Nathan Burnett and Cameron Elliott and his partner Meriko Saito. Cherished grandfather of Nova, Ivy, and Felix. Dear son of Florence and the late William Elliott. Predeceased by his Brother Stephen Elliott and his mother and father-in-law Marion and Karl Tallman. Brother-in-law of Lynn Goods and her husband Grant, Bill Tallman and Doug Tallman and his wife Pat. Sadly missed by his many nieces and nephews. Friends will be received at the HIGHLAND PARK FUNERAL CENTRE, 2510 Bensfort Rd., Peterborough on Friday from 5:00-8:00 PM. Funeral Mass will be held at the CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER-IN-CHAINS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, 411 Reid St. Peterborough on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 2:00 PM. Reception to follow at the Knights of Columbus, in Columbus Hall. In memory of Morris and in lieu of flowers, donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Online condolences may be made at www.highlandparkfuneralcentre.com

Community Funeral Home

Delaine Miller (Nee Ward)

(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

Peacefully at Haliburton Hospital on Saturday morning, February 3, 2024 in her 93rd year. Beloved wife and best friend of Allen Miller. Cherished daughter of the late William and May Ward. Also lovingly remembered by her many nieces and nephews. Delaine worked as a waitress at Kozy Korner for many years in the Haliburton Highlands. She also worked at Miller's General Store on Pine Street in Haliburton. Allen and Delaine were faithful adherents at Lakeside Baptist Church in Haliburton and West Guilford Baptist Church.

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends and family were invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Wednesday afternoon, February 7, 2024 from 12 (Noon) until time of the Funeral Service in the Chapel at 1 o'clock. Interment later Evergreen Cemetery, Haliburton. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the West Guilford Baptist Church or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

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650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

William (Bill) Robert Dewey

Passed away suddenly at the Haliburton Hospital on Friday, February 2, 2024, at the age of 83.

Beloved husband of the late Joan Carol Dewey (nee Thomas). Dear father of David Robert Dewey, Steven Bruce Dewey (Rosana), Sean Paul Dewey (Tammy). Loving grandfather of Samantha, Shannon, Riley and great grandfather of Bianca. Brother of the late Doug, Alice and Connie. Bill was owner and director of WRD Cottage Rental Agency for 29 years. Prior to owning WRD, Bill worked internationally in South East Asia.

Friends are invited to join the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 for a Memorial Gathering and Reception to celebrate Bill's Life on Saturday, February 17th, 2024 from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm.

Memorial Donations to the Salvation Army or to the Royal Canadian Legion Br. 129 Poppy Fund would be appreciated by the family.

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www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of

Norma Jean Goodger

Passed away suddenly at the Haliburton Hospital, on Tuesday, February 6th, 2024, in her 75th year.

Predeceased by her parents Jean and Donald Goodger, her brother Brian, her partner of over 25 years Reta Kelly. Survived by Reta's Family, Micheal (Sandy), Christine (Al), Pat (Mike), Karen (deceased)(Oscar), grandchildren Kelly, Katie, Shelagh, Meghan, Sean, John, Stephen, Brad, and great Norma to 10 great grandchildren. Will be lovingly remembered by her dear friend Nina Harris and she will be missed by many.

After Retiring from Kids Can Press, Norma fulfilled her dream of living on Kushog Lake fulltime. She was the past president and founding member of Kushog Lake Property Owners Association, member of Minden Pride, the Stanhope Museum, and Highlands Festival Singers.

A Celebration of Norma's Life will be held at a later date.

Memorial Donations to Minden Pride (cheques only) or the Charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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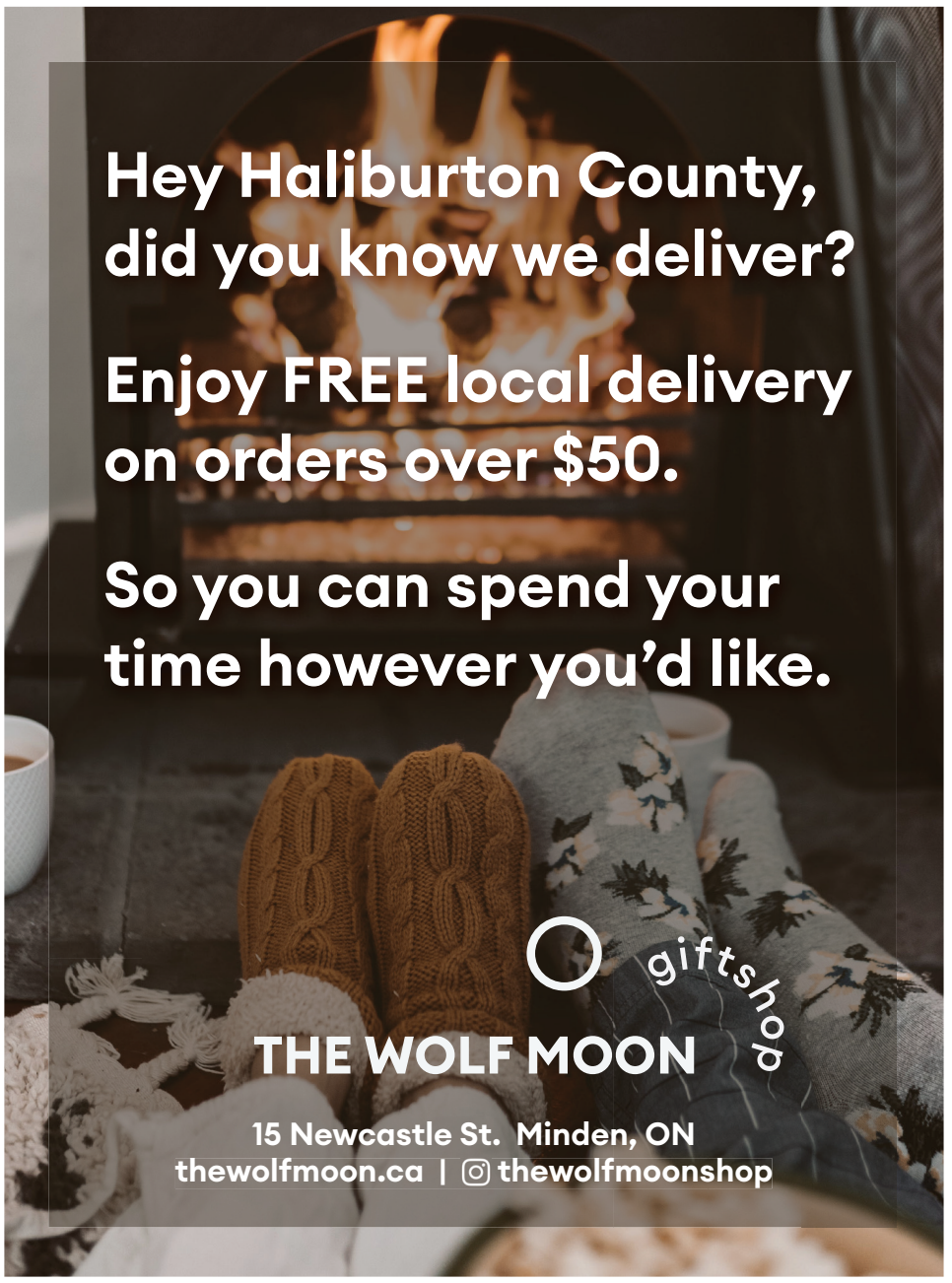

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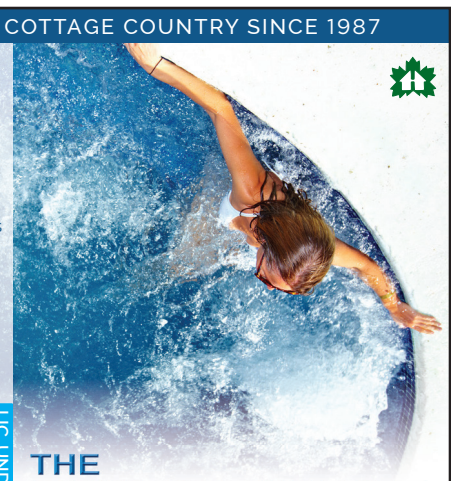

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

THIS WEEK
Ode to Tradition
Robbie Burns Night turns everyone into a Scot... pg 3

THIS WEEK
Minden Youth Club
It's all part of strategy for county's growth... page 5

FEATURE
OFSSA Warm Up
Ski meet helps local organizers prepare for arrival of 800 skiers... pg 12

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY
ECHO
The Voice of the Highlands since 1884
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1998 Vol. 115, No. 50 • 36 PAGES 90 cents (incl. GST)

Healthcare projects get financial boost from governments

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

As everyone pins their hopes on a spring start to the construction of local healthcare facilities, the federal and provincial governments are making that optimism seem a little bit more like a healthy dose of realism.

On Wednesday, MP John O'Reilly and MPP Chris Hodgson announced that the local projects are approved for funding under the joint infrastructure program.

The federal and provincial governments will each pay one-third of the costs for a new 30-bed long-term care unit at Haliburton Hospital and an emergency wing and expanded accommodations at the Hyland Crest site, up to a certain dollar limit, of course.

When the application was made, the projects' projected costs were $13.7-million, and that's the figure approval was based on. This means the federal and provincial governments will each chip in $4.6-million, making for a total of $9.2-million in government funding. Local fundraising will have to pay for the rest, with the county agreeing to play an active role in insuring the money is available.

This is much better than the $6.4-million funding limit previously agreed to by the provincial government when the projects were first approved in 1994.

Of course, given that the province now has to pay $2-million less than it had to as the sole government funding source, this is welcome news for

LET'S DANCE: To the delight of hundreds of people in the audience, the Haliburton Figure Skating Club presented its annual skating carnival at the Dysart arena on Sunday afternoon. Here, Anna Schleifenbaum, Leanna Pearsell, Minna Schleifenbaum and Tamara Bain do the Mexican Hat Dance. More photos on page 21.

GETTING THE GOODS ON DOWNLOADING

MPP says Highlands spared from the worst

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

It could have been worse.

That was the main message MPP Chris Hodgson gave to local politicians who are worried about the economic impact of provincial downloading.

"Haliburton County was headed towards being grants negative," Hodgson told county council, plus 35 municipal representatives in the audience at Wednesday's county council meeting. In other words, if the province had cut its own deficit by cutting transfer payments to municipalities, in the same way the federal government solved have funding stay at present levels. "That's a huge benefit."

It was very important for Hodgson to get the support of local politicians because the Tory government's Achilles heel when it comes to voter popularity is property taxes, which threaten to rise dramatically as a result of downloading.

"Politically we have put a lot of faith in municipal councils," Hodgson said. "We're putting our political future in your hands to keep costs down for taxpayers... Our intent is to have less government and less onerous taxes and there's no point in lowering income taxes if property taxes go up."

To a large part, Hodgson succeeded in getting local politicians on side; at the very least, there was no expressed hostility towards him or his government and the meeting ended on a cordial note. He used humour to break the ice and appeared serious in his intent to help local governments solve many of the problems downloading and the province-wide shift to Actual Value Assessment will create.

Speaking without notes or pauses for about half an hour,

See RURAL page 6

Education funding squabbles begin early

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

Queen's Park has had com-

ing for the remainder of the school year or a relatively small but still significant decrease.

The province says it's giving

about $582,000. And the board's take on the funding situation doesn't sit well with riding MPP and management

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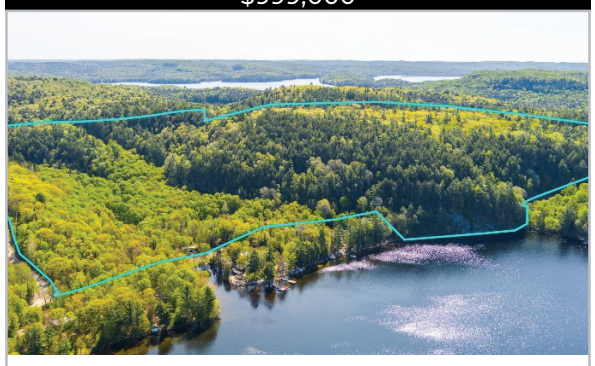

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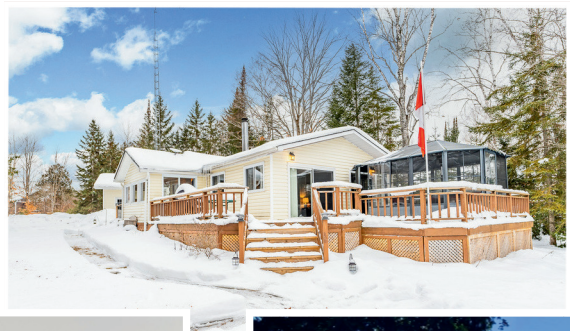

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